Railways equity in NTPC Power Project

2849. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHAIT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways were considering to have equity participation in power generation projects of NTPC;

(b) whether modalities of such participation have since been firmed up;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of legal viability of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d)'Railways are exploring the possibility of* joint ventures with NTPC and other public/private power producers so as to obtain power at reasonable rates. The modalities of such participation have not yet been firmed up.

Opening of DRM office in Ahmedabad

† 2850. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has submitted a proposal requesting for opening of DRM office in Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The new division at Ahmedabad will become operational, depending on the availability of investible resources.

Closure of Rail Parcel office at Dharwad

2851. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to close down the Railway parcel office at Dharwad Railway Station in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Speed restriction on Kadalundi Rail Bridge

2852. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kadalundi river bridge in Kerala, which collapsed on 22nd June, 2001, should have been replaced some ten years back as per recommendations of safety expert;

(b) if so, whether trains were expected to restrict their speed to 20Km. per hour only while passing over this bridge;

(c) if so, whether these precautions were being taken; and

(d) whether responsibility for this has been fixed and guilty persons have been punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Collaboration in Railtel Corporation of India Ltd.

2853. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMARAGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expanded Railway Board has decided to tie-up with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. as partners for its new venture, Railtel Corporation of India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the objectives of the Railtel Corporation of India Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b)The expanded Railway Board had examined the Detailed Project Report of the Rail Tel Corporation of India Ltd. and *inter-alia* decided:—